

FLEET MOVES ON MANILA.
REPORT THAT THE PHILIPPINES ARE
TO BE ATTACKED.

APPROACHES TO THE HARBOR MINED—PRIESTS
AND BUSINESS MEN ANXIOUS TO SUR-
RENDER, BUT MILITARY DE-
TERMINED TO FIGHT.

London, April 23.—The American squadron at Hong-Kong, according to a special dispatch from Shanghai, has sailed for Manila, which it will attack. The dispatch adds:
"Three steamers recently purchased by the United States Government will follow the fleet with coal."
"The approaches to Manila are mined."
"It is reported here that the priests and the commercial classes in the Philippines are in favor of a peaceful surrender rather than to suffer a bombardment, but that the military are determined to resist."

DEVELOPMENTS IN MADRID.
QUEEN IN FREQUENT CONFERENCE
WITH THE LEADERS.
MORE RUMORS OF DISSATISFACTION WITH
SAGASTA—THE ROY KING CHERISHED
BY A MULTITUDE.

Madrid, April 22, 9 a. m.—A royal decree has been gazetted calling out 30,000 men of the reserves of 1897.

Noon.—All the persons who have been consulted by the Queen Regent have advised a continuance of the Sagasta Cabinet. It is probable, however, that the Minister of Marine, Admiral Bermejo, will insist upon resigning in order to take command of a squadron.

Patriotic enthusiasm reigns throughout Madrid and the Spanish provinces. The Queen Regent had a long conference to-day with General Weyler, and the European diplomats had frequent conferences with Señor Gullon, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

2.30 p. m.—The Queen Regent during the day consulted with Señors Silveira and Romero Robledo, the Conservative leaders. The former said he agreed with the declarations of Marshal Martinez Campos, when the latter said:
"There are only two parties in Spain. One is for peace and the other is for war. The first has failed, and the second ought now to be called."

Señor Gamazo, the Liberal leader, urged the Sagasta Cabinet to continue in office. The Premier, on leaving the Palace at 2 o'clock this afternoon, declared that there was absolutely no foundation for the rumors of a Cabinet crisis.

An immense concourse of people witnessed the military parade in front of the Royal Palace this morning, and intense enthusiasm was displayed when the little King appeared on the front balcony. The military bands played the national anthem, which was sung by all present.

A big demonstration, with flags, torches, etc., has been arranged to take place in front of the Military Club to-night.

Señor Sagasta has received grandiloquent accounts of the demonstrations in favor of Spain which have recently taken place at Havana. The Premier during the day announced that the Senate will meet to-morrow and that the Chamber will meet on Monday.

Admiral Chacon, on being consulted on the subject by the Queen Regent to-day, informed Her Majesty that he believed the Spanish Navy would be successful in its engagements with the fleets of the United States.

AMERICAN FLAG BURNED BY A MOB.
11.45 p. m.—This evening a crowd of six thousand strong, carrying flags and shouting "Viva España!" "We want war!" and "Down with the Yankees!" burned the Stars and Stripes in front of the home of Señor Sagasta, the Premier, who was enthusiastically greeted.

The people then went to the residence of M. Patenotre, the French Ambassador, and insisted that he should make his appearance, but the French Ambassador was not at home.

Conferences between the Queen Regent and the political leaders have been in progress the whole evening.

BUSINESS PANIC IN SPAIN.
INVESTORS AND POORER PEOPLE ALIKE IN DE-
SPAIR.

London, April 23.—The Madrid correspondent of "The Standard," telegraphing on Friday night, comments on the great extent to which Señor Sagasta has strengthened his position by his "decisive attitude toward the United States and his advice to the Queen Regent to consult all the political leaders." He says:
"Señor Sagasta probably took the latter step because he and several of his colleagues, especially Señor Moret and Admiral Bermejo, felt that their general position was not popular."

"Marshal Campos, after his audience with the Queen Regent, publicly declared that he had advised her to stick to the Liberal Cabinet, and, if that were impossible, then to call upon the Conservatives to take the helm, adding that if it became necessary, in default of other solutions, he himself would always be ready to assist monarchy and his country, though he had no personal ambition."

"A most unpleasant feature of the situation is the panic on the Madrid and Barcelona bourses and in financial circles all over Spain, despite the energetic efforts of the leading bankers and the remonstrances of the press. The people have begun in Madrid, and even more so in the provinces, to crowd the branch offices of the Bank of Spain to exchange notes for silver, which has long been the only current coin in Spain. "El Imparcial" says that in three days 15,000,000 pesetas have thus been drawn in silver from the Bank of Spain at Barcelona."

"The decline in Spanish funds and all the favorite securities of the native investors has been painful. As everybody knows, the Spaniards themselves nowadays hold almost all their consols, their Cuban debt and other issues. It will suffice to quote the Bank of Spain shares, which since the last settlement have declined from 404 to 270; the tobacco monopoly, which has fallen from 243 to 190, and the Cuban bonds, which have fallen from 92 to 51, while exchange on Paris has risen from 32 to 68, to say nothing of the gold premiums."

"Indeed, it was a presentiment of the consequences of war for Spanish finance that made the warmest advocates of a conciliatory and peaceful settlement of the Cuban question, which has been impossible by the policy of the United States."

"Noisy but orderly patriotic demonstrations are reported at Barcelona, Cadiz, Malaga, Valencia and Toledo, but the authorities have nowhere interfered."

DISTINCTION AND DIFFERENCE.
Though the Kentucky was christened with water, the Kearsarge was sprung into nativity with champagne. This favorite wine was served at the luncheon commemorating the occasion. Most & Chandon, the choice of connoisseurs, is a feature at all prominent banquets and society gatherings.—Adv.

SPAIN'S CABINET TOTTERS.

GROWING DISTRUST OF SAGASTA AND
HIS MINISTERS.

EVEN PUBLIC MEN WHO ARE APPARENTLY SUP-
PORTING THE GOVERNMENT COMPLAIN OF
THE FAILURE TO PREPARE FOR WAR.

London, April 23.—The Madrid correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph" says:
"In well-informed Parliamentary circles a pessimistic view is taken as to the upshot of the war. Even the politicians who are patriotically supporting the Government accuse the Liberal Cabinet of having brought about the war and of having made no preparations to carry it on. Those who have studied the question affirm that the war will be of very short duration, and that when it is terminated those who are responsible for it will be called to account."

"It is rumored that Señor Sagasta will be succeeded by Captain-General Lopez Dominguez; but even if this new Ministry should be formed it would not survive the conclusion of peace."
PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS.
"There have been enthusiastic demonstrations in the city and provinces, the crowds in many cases demanding the release of General Bourbon de Castelvi (sentenced to two months' imprisonment for taking part in the rioting on the night of April 12)."

"When the marines started for Cadiz last evening (Thursday), during the cheering of the crowd Governor Aguilera took off his hat and took up a collection. The hat was thrice filled with silver from the well-to-do and copper coins from the poor."

"The rumor that England (Europe?) intends to limit the conflict to the Gulf of Mexico, and that an understanding there anent with the United States had been reached, caused a great sensation in Madrid. The feeling on the subject may compel the Government to make clear that it will not allow itself to be dictated to by any neutral Power in a matter in which Spain's rights are clear and precise."

SOME CHANGE MUST COME.
"For the present everything is uncertain except the fact that some Ministerial change must immediately occur. Great excitement prevails. El Nacional, the organ of Romero Robledo, in an editorial characteristic of the feelings and tendencies of the more respectable members of the opposition, entitled 'Speech of the Spanish Nation to the Queen Regent in Reply to the Speech from the Throne' says:
"On reading the words of Your Majesty we cannot hide from our Queen the fact that they fill us with profound sadness. Your Majesty says nothing of the employment that has been given to our 200,000 sons hurried away from productive work in order to fight for the Fatherland and the King. His Majesty makes no mention of the 2,000,000 pesetas earned by the sweat of our brows which we have no other resource but to spend on the war. Your Majesty does not deal with the thousands of persons rather than with an explanation of the great misfortunes or the promise of effective remedies. It constitutes an enthusiastic hymn to motherly love."

A MOTHER, BUT NOT A QUEEN.
Athwart this speech, Madame, we see a mother bending down over a cradle, but we seek a Queen bending over a tomb which appears to open to receive an ill-starred nation. Still, with that nobility of soul that has enabled us to bestow a name and character upon Spain, we receive your request and we have no objection to protect the throne of your son, the King, in remembrance of that other King, your consort, whose memory, as we have noted with much pain, was not mentioned yesterday by your august lips."

But now let us speak of ourselves, because if we perish will not ruin overtake your son? If we are dishonored by ignominious defeat will not your throne be soiled by the mud in which we are buried?"
The speech ends with questions as to where the increased squadron is and the strong fortifications for which Spain paid so heavily in 1896 and a prediction that a day of reckoning is near at hand.

MAY TRY TO CATCH THE PARIS.
SPANISH GOVERNMENT INFORMED AS SOON AS
SHE LEFT SOUTHAMPTON.

Southampton, April 22.—The steamer Paris, of the American Line, chartered by the United States Government, sailed at 2.15 p. m. to-day for New-York, though her regular sailing day is Saturday. She had on board 150 passengers and her cargo included a quantity of guns and ammunition. There was great enthusiasm among the crowds on the dock, and the band of the United Steamship Company's steamer Britain played "Yankee Doodle" as the Paris steamed seaward.

London, April 23.—"The Daily Mail" says: "The Spanish Embassy immediately notified the Madrid Government of the departure of the Paris, and it is believed that fast cruisers from Cadiz and Corunna will try to intercept her."

The Liverpool correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph" says:
"Surprise was expressed here to-day (Friday) that the Paris should have sailed unescorted, especially as there were rumors in the Mersey that Spanish war vessels were waiting to intercept her off the south coast of Ireland. Yet the passengers of the Paris were assured of their perfect safety."

No apprehension as to the Paris's safe arrival here is manifested by the agents of the line. They say that the Paris is at least two knots faster than any of the Spanish vessels which could possibly intercept her, and, as such vessels could under ordinary conditions be seen at least twenty miles at sea, the Paris, as soon as a warship was sighted, could show a clean pair of heels and keep out of gunshot of the vessel attempting to capture her."

DID THIS DELAY THE TORPEDO FLEET?
IT IS SAID THAT THE SPANISH ENGINEERS DIS-
ABLED THE ENGINES.

Galveston, April 22.—It is reported by Captain Barnes of the British steamer Astoria, which arrived here to-day from Las Palmas, Canary Islands, that the delay of the Spanish torpedo fleet at that place, which was attributed to rough seas, was in fact due to the deliberate disabling of the engines by the engineers, who did not want to cross the sea.

Repairs, it was stated, were made by local machinists, as the engineers could not be trusted.

FRENCH FLEET TO BE NEAR CUBA.
NAVAL OFFICERS AT BREST ORDERED TO KEEP
A SQUADRON ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC.

Brest, France, April 22.—The naval authorities here have received orders that, directly war is declared between Spain and the United States, the French Northern Squadron is to be kept in constant proximity to the Antilles during hostilities.

A VALUABLE WAR MAP.
Showing Spanish possessions, Atlantic coast, Spain, Cuba and neighboring islands—warships of the navies and a simple plan to follow their movements—a valuable supplement—given away with to-morrow's Brooklyn Eagle.—Adv.

FIRST PRIZE OF THE WAR.

THE NASHVILLE CAPTURES THE SPAN-
ISH STEAMER BUENA VENTURA.

SHE AND HER CREW TAKEN INTO KEY WEST AS
PRISONERS, AFTER THE FIRING OF TWO SHOTS
—SHE WAS BOUND FOR ROTTERDAM.

Key West, Fla., April 22.—The United States fleet was about twelve miles off Sand Key Light this morning, at 7 o'clock, when the Spanish merchantman Buena Ventura was sighted, bound north. The gunboat Nashville can her down and put a shot across her bows from the 4-inch gun on the port side aft, commanded by Lieutenant Dillingham. The Spaniard ignored the shot, but another, closer to her bows, brought her to.

A prize crew under Ensign T. P. Magruder was put aboard. Captain Lucarara, in command of the Buena Ventura, was astounded. He said he did not know that war had been declared, but when he was informed of the state of affairs he shrugged his shoulders and accepted the situation philosophically.

The Nashville brought her prize into this harbor at 11 o'clock this morning, and put a prize crew on board. Both ships lay well out in the stream.

The news of the capture set the people of Key West wild with enthusiasm. All work was suspended, and the docks were crowded with excited men and women.

Commander Lyons, of the Dolphin, has delivered to United States District-Attorney Stripling the papers of the Buena Ventura. He will libel the ship in the usual way. The prize is still lying in the harbor. Her captain was allowed to remain on board, but the crew of twenty-eight were taken over to the Dolphin and made to assist in the work of coaling.

The Nashville steamed proudly out of the harbor late this afternoon. She had gone about twelve miles when the Dolphin signalled her to return. She steamed back and received orders, the nature of which was not divulged, and put to sea again finally to join the fleet.

The Buena Ventura is of 1,600 tons. She sailed recently from Pasaquola, Miss., for Rotterdam, loaded with lumber. She is a tramp vessel, and is owned in Bilbao, Spain.

It is reported this evening that the Buena Ventura ran aground on a reef about a mile out, and is leaking. Tugs went to her assistance and pulled her off. Considerable mystery surrounds the affair.

Washington, April 22.—The report that the gunboat Nashville had captured a Spanish merchant ship gained circulation through the Navy Department shortly after noon to-day. It caused much excitement and was eagerly discussed as the first outward evidence of the actual existence of war. Secretary Long, however, had not received word of the capture, except through newspaper sources.

Among the officials the report caused much satisfaction, although it was said that the capture of a Spanish warship would have been more acceptable. There is said to be no question as to the right of taking Spanish merchant ships at this time. Two of these ships left Galveston within the last day or so with considerable cargoes of cotton on board. Another Spanish ship is said to be en route from Vera Cruz, Mexico, with one million pesetas on board, representing the subscription of Vera Cruz to the Spanish interests in Cuba.

THE NEW-YORK SAID TO HAVE MADE
A CAPTURE
A SPANISH PASSENGER STEAMER REPORTED AS
THE SECOND PRIZE OF THE KEY
WEST SQUADRON.

Key West, April 23, 2.30 a. m.—An incoming tug reports that the New-York has captured a Spanish passenger steamer plying between Havana and Porto Rico. The torpedo fleet is coming in.

ENGLAND HEARS OF OTHER CAPTURES.
ONE THE BRITISH STEAMER GRACIA AND THE
OTHER THE PARIS.

London, April 23.—"The Daily Chronicle" publishes a dispatch from Liverpool which says that a private cable dispatch received there reports that the American fleet off Key West has captured a British steamer, probably the Gracia, flying the Spanish flag, which cleared Pensacola on April 18 and was bound for Liverpool.

"The Daily Chronicle" also publishes a rumor that the American liner Paris has already been captured by Spanish warships.

NOT INTERCEPTING THE OREGON.
THE SPANISH TORPEDO-GUNBOAT TEMERARIO
STILL AT BUENOS AYRES.

It was reported yesterday from Buenos Ayres that the Spanish torpedo-gunboat Temerario had sailed from that port to attack the United States battleship Oregon and the gunboat Marietta, which left Valparaiso on Monday last for Montevideo.

Charles R. Flint & Co. announced last night that they had received a cable dispatch from their agents in Buenos Ayres, Eddy, Hall & Co., which said that the Spanish torpedo-gunboat Temerario was preparing to go to sea.

The message further said it was reported that the Temerario was short of ammunition, and that she was trying to secure some from the Argentine Republic.

Later dispatches announced that the Temerario's departure had been indefinitely postponed.

The Oregon and the Marietta, at a rough estimate, have about three thousand miles steaming between Valparaiso and Montevideo. The battleship will necessarily keep company with the gunboat, as the latter is faster, owing to the quicker manner in which she can be handled, to successfully engage the Spanish torpedo-gunboat Temerario, which has a speed of twenty knots against the sixteen-knot speed credited to the Oregon. The Marietta has a speed of about twelve knots. Therefore, the Oregon should take from twelve to thirteen days in making the trip from Valparaiso to Montevideo. As she left Valparaiso on Monday last, the Oregon, with her consort, is now nearing Cape Horn, from the Pacific side.

NO NEUTRALITY DECLARATION YET.
EUROPEAN POWERS WILL MAKE NONE TILL WAR
IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED.

Paris, April 22.—The report of Professor Renault, which was submitted to a meeting of the high officials of the various ministries convened by M. Hanotaux, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to consider the question of a declaration of neutrality and its consequences, is as follows:
It is important to state that as yet the Powers have no declaration of neutrality to make, a state of war between Spain and the United States not being as yet officially announced. Spain, by forestalling the delivery of the ultimatum of the United States, in handing the Ambassador his passports, has, in fact, merely broken off diplomatic relations, which is not the same thing as a declaration of war. We must await, therefore, the first act of hostility on the part of one of the two Powers before a state of war can be considered really existing."

EMPERORS TO MEET AT DRESDEN.
WILLIAM AND FRANCIS JOSEPH LIKELY TO DIS-
CUSS THE WAR ON SATURDAY.

London, April 23.—The Vienna correspondent of "The Standard" says:
"Emperor Francis Joseph and Emperor William will meet at Dresden Saturday at the celebration of King Albert of Saxony. They will be accompanied by their respective Foreign Ministers, Count Goluchowski and Prince Hohenlohe. Probably they will discuss all phases of the Hispano-American war."

HOSTILITIES ON WITH SPAIN.

A BLOCKADE OF THE PRINCIPAL CUBAN PORTS PRO-
CLAIMED BY PRESIDENT M'KINLEY.

SAMPSON'S WARSHIPS PROBABLY OFF HAVANA NOW.

A SPANISH MERCHANTMAN CAPTURED BY THE NASHVILLE—COMMODORE
DEWEY'S FLEET SAILS TO ATTACK MANILA—BLANCO DECLARES A
STATE OF WAR IN CUBA—VOLUNTEER ARMY BILL PASSED
AND SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT.

President McKinley yesterday issued a proclamation declaring a blockade of the principal ports of Cuba. Notice of this action was given to the European Powers, who were also informed of the decision of this Government not to countenance privateering.

Most of the ships of Captain Sampson's squadron left Key West to blockade Cuban ports.

The gunboat Nashville captured the Spanish merchant steamer Buena Ventura off Key West and made her the first prize of the war.

The American fleet at Hong Kong sailed to attack Manila, the chief port of the Philippine Islands.

Both houses of Congress adopted the conference report on the Volunteer Army bill, and the measure was signed by the President. It is expected that a call for 100,000 volunteers will be issued to-day.

The expediency of making a formal declaration of war was discussed by the Cabinet and leaders in Congress; the Administration, however, prefers that such action should be taken by Spain.

The revenue and bond bill has been finished, and will be submitted to the Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday. It is estimated that it will raise between \$95,000,000 and \$100,000,000 a year.

It was reported from Honolulu that the United States would take possession of Hawaii; inquiry at the Navy Department led to the belief that the story is exaggerated, and that a coaling station will simply be established there.

About 4,000 troops have arrived at the camp commanded by General Wade, at Tampa, Fla. At Chickamauga Park the force under General Brooke has increased to nearly 10,000 men.

The American liner Paris sailed from Southampton, and it is believed that Spanish cruisers will try to intercept her.

Reports from Madrid indicate bitter discontent with the Sagasta Ministry among leading politicians, who say the Government failed to prepare for war. Captain-General Blanco declared a state of war in Cuba and revoked all the pacific decrees.

President McKinley's Proclamation is as follows:
By the President of the United States:

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, By a joint resolution passed by the Congress and approved April 20, 1898, and communicated to the Government of Spain, it was demanded that said Government at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters; and the President of the United States was directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States and to call into actual service of the United States the militia of the several States to such extent as might be necessary to carry said resolution into effect; and

Whereas, In carrying into effect said resolution the President of the United States deems it necessary to set on foot and maintain a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including all ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba;

Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, President of the United States, in order to enforce said resolution, do hereby declare and proclaim that the United States of America have instituted and will maintain a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba, aforesaid, in pursuance of the laws of the United States and the law of nations applicable to such cases. An efficient force will be posted so as to prevent the entrance and exit of vessels from the ports aforesaid. Any neutral vessel approaching any of said ports or attempting to leave the same, without notice or knowledge of the establishment of such blockade, will be duly warned by the commander of the blockading forces, who will indorse on her register the fact, and the date of such warning, where such indorsement was made; and if the same vessel shall again attempt to enter any blockaded port she will be captured and sent to the nearest convenient port for such proceedings against her and her cargo as prize as may be deemed advisable.

Neutral vessels lying in any of said ports at the time of the establishment of such blockade will be allowed thirty days to issue therefrom.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this 23d day of April, A. D. 1898, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second.

By the President,
JOHN SHERMAN, Secretary of State.

WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

THE TOPEKA REPORTED LOST.

A RELIEF IN FALMOUTH THAT SHE WAS
SUNK IN COLLISION WITH A
SWEDISH BARK.

London, April 23.—"The Daily Mail" says this morning it is believed in Falmouth shipping circles that the United States cruiser Topeka, formerly the Diogenes, which left Falmouth on the evening of Tuesday, April 19, foundered in collision with the Swedish bark Albatross at midnight on Tuesday.

According to "The Daily Mail," the captain of the Albatross asserts that after the collision the steamer, whose name he did not ascertain, flashed a light and suddenly disappeared. He believes she foundered.

Falmouth, April 23.—Captain Persson, of the Swedish bark Albatross, from Mobile for Dundee, towed in here yesterday, damaged from collision at midnight on April 19, about sixty miles southwest of Scilly Islands, with an unknown vessel, as previously reported, says he believes that the vessel which struck his bark was a steamer, and that she had foundered, for after she had flashed an electric light nothing more was seen of her.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CRUISER.

BUILT FOR PERU AND BOUGHT BY JAPAN—HER
FINE ARMAMENT.

The United States cruiser Topeka—the report as to whose foundering must be taken with reserve—was purchased April 2 from the Thames Iron Works, London, by Lieutenant Colwell, United States Naval Attaché in London. She was built for Peru in 1883, but never became the property of that country because financial complications arose. For more than ten years she lay in the Thames River yards untouched, and it was not until the Japan-China trouble that she was sought after. Then she became the property of Japan, and was fitted out with Maxim guns. The opening of hostilities, however, prevented her from leaving English waters. Since that time she lay in the Thames awaiting a purchaser, until acquired by the United States Government.

It was never intended that she should be other than a river gunboat. She was built particularly strong in modern armament, with two "Long Toms" on the upper deck, a "stern chaser" of excellent calibre and four Maxim guns on the main deck amidships, two on each side. Her registered displacement is 1,800 and her speed sixteen knots per hour. When Lieutenant Colwell hoisted the Stars and Stripes above her, her name was changed from Diogenes to Topeka. She experienced numerous delays before leaving Falmouth.

A SPANISH PROPHECY.

Paris, April 22.—"The Gaulois" publishes an interview with Señor De Bosch, the distinguished Spanish financial authority, who declared:
"The war between Spain and the United States cannot last more than ten or twelve months, and will not cost over £20,000,000 to £24,000,000, a sum Spain can easily furnish from her own resources."

Two rapid-fire guns of 6-inch calibre arrived here this morning at 7 o'clock over the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, consigned to the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. Later in the day they were sent to the shipyard. Three guns are for use on the Dixie and the Yosemite. The mounts arrived yesterday.

The observation tower, at the lower corner of the fort, was completed this evening. From this tower a clear view of Hampton Roads and Chesapeake Bay is afforded.

The work on the Solace will be completed to-morrow night, and on Monday she will go over to Norfolk Navy Yard to take on a staff of twelve rapid-fire guns of 6-inch calibre and stores, surgeons and medical attendants and stores. She will sail on Wednesday to join Captain Sampson's fleet.

The auxiliary cruisers Dixie and Yosemite cannot possibly leave the shipyard before Saturday of next week. It was stated at the shipyard to-day that the Department has not yet reached a decision with reference to providing the Dixie and Yosemite with a light belt of armor.

Twenty rapid-fire guns of 6-inch calibre arrived here this morning at 7 o'clock over the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, consigned to the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. Later in the day they were sent to the shipyard. Three guns are for use on the Dixie and the Yosemite. The mounts arrived yesterday.

A BLOCKADE IS DECLARED.

CUBA'S CHIEF PORTS CLOSED.

PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY PRESIDENT
M'KINLEY.

NOTICE OF THE BLOCKADE GIVEN TO THE EURO-
PEAN POWERS—CAPTAIN SAMPSON'S FLEET
EXPECTED TO SHUT THE SPANISH
TROOPS UP IN THE ISLAND—OTHER
WAR MEASURES ADOPTED
IN WASHINGTON.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, April 22.—Though war between the United States and Spain has not yet been formally declared by either nation, hostilities may be said to have virtually begun to-day with the issue of the President's proclamation announcing a blockade of the principal Cuban ports. To carry out this forcible closure of the ports of Cuba to commerce with the rest of the world the North Atlantic fleet, which has been lying for several months past at Key West, sailed this morning to take station off the principal harbors of the island now controlled by the Spanish authorities. Two double-turreted monitors, the Terror and the Puritan, which are scarcely fitted for open sea patrol duty, were left behind at the Key West station, and with them, for the present, the torpedo-boats Cushing, Dupont and Porter, the dispatch-boat Dolphin, the gunboat Helena and the cruiser Marblehead. By to-night the remainder of the squadron will probably have been disposed along the northern coast of Cuba, with a cruiser or two detached to shut off communication with Cienfuegos, the single port of the southern coast named in the President's proclamation of blockade.

ONLY THE CHIEF PORTS CLOSED.

To shut in the Spanish forces now quartered in Cuba more completely the Administration has decided not to attempt a general blockade of the island, but simply to close to foreign intercourse the chief harbors in those provinces over which the Spanish still maintain civil and military control. On the northern coast four ports of consequence are affected by to-day's proclamation—Bahia Honda, Havana, Matanzas and Cardenas. The first and most westerly is in the province of Pinar del Rio, the second is in Havana Province, and the last two are in the province of Matanzas. The east and west coast line on which they lie is about one hundred and seventy-five miles in length, and either extremity is within half a day's steaming from Key West. Cienfuegos is almost directly south of Cardenas, across Matanzas and Santa Clara provinces; but the men-of-war called on to blockade that part of the island will be several hundred miles from their coal and supply base at Key West.

The two chief Cuban ports left open to commerce by to-day's proclamation are Sagua la Grande, on the northern coast, and Santiago de Cuba, on the southern. Sagua la Grande is in Santa Clara Province, and is only held by a Spanish garrison through the assistance of the naval patrol. With the naval forces destroyed or scattered, the town would probably fall into the hands of the insurgents and thus become worthless as an entry port to the Spanish authorities. Santiago de Cuba lies at the extreme southeastern end of the island, and is the capital town of the big and sparsely inhabited province of the same name. It is practically cut off from Havana by a long intervening stretch of hostile country, and could in no case be used by the Spanish as a means of communication with the outside world.

By abandoning any effort, therefore, to close these strategically unimportant harbors in the eastern half of the island the Government is enabled to concentrate the great bulk of the Key West fleet off Havana and the neighboring coast towns, and to make the blockade of that portion of Cuba from the outset an indisputably effective one.

WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

JOHN SHERMAN, Secretary of State.

DECLARATION OF WAR UNNECESSARY.

Though the official announcement of a blockade of Spanish ports in Cuba can scarcely be construed as anything but an act of war, there is still a great deal of uncertainty expressed in and out of Congress whether a state of war between Spain and this country actually and legally exists. The expediency of making a formal declaration of war against Spain has been eagerly discussed by the Cabinet and by the leaders in Congress, and it has been urged that certain constitutional and military difficulties might be got rid of through legislative action sanctioning general hostilities and clothing the Executive at once with undisputed war powers.

The Administration would doubtless prefer to have the formal declaration of war come from Spain in the first instance. Yet the events of the last two days have made any formal recognition by either nation of the state of hostility existing between the two countries a mere matter of domestic expediency; for the President's blockade proclamation has already served sufficient notice on foreign Powers of the rupture of friendly relations, and Spain, by dismissing Minister Woodford from Madrid and refusing to receive or discuss the American ultimatum, has evinced with equal emphasis her purpose to maintain her hopeless and empty sovereignty in Cuba by force of arms.

If Congress should be asked to pass a declaration of war, action on a joint resolution could easily be obtained at any time by general consent. But the President and his advisers have not yet determined whether or not it is advisable to take this last and now almost meaningless step.

WAR MEASURES IN CONGRESS.

Though both houses of Congress agreed to-day to a conference report on the Volunteer bill, and that measure was signed by the President, it was decided to delay for a day the call for volunteers to fill the ranks of the projected army of Cuban occupation. Requisition will probably be made to-morrow on the Governors of the various States for the 100,000 troops necessary to insure the successful invasion and conquest of Cuba. The death of Senator Wallah precluded any further action to-day on emergency war measures in the upper house of Congress, but in the lower branch some additional progress was made and an agreement was reached by which the Army Reorganization bill, raising the total strength of the regular forces in time of war to about 56,000 men and officers, will be considered and passed to-morrow. The Naval Affairs Committee has also ready to report a bill creating a Volunteer Naval Reserve, under whose provisions several thousand seamen may be enlisted for service, chiefly on the smaller vessels of the patrol squadron and the mosquito fleet.

CONTRABAND OF WAR DEFINED.

In pursuance of the announcement made by the State Department two days ago, that in the conduct of war on the high seas the United States would observe the rules concerning neutral commerce embodied in the Treaty of Paris, a semi-official classification of merchandise as